Constitution and By Laws

OF

THE WILBERFORCE LYCEUM EDUCATING SOCIETY.

FOR MORAL AND MENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

Cannonsburg, Township of Colchester, Province of Canada, British North America.

Eccles 1st chap.—Matthew 16th chap. 24th to 28th verse. We your undersigned Loyal subjects under the protection of Her Majesty Queen Victoria,

YOUR COMPILERS

Humbly submit the same for your inspection. Accepted Amherstburg, Canada West, January 12, 1850.

N. C. W. CANNON,
ISAAC WILSON,
ISAAC ANDERSON.

AMHERSTBURG:

I. B. BOYLE, PRINTER.

1850.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Wilberforve Lyceum Educating Society.

The Colored citizens of the Province of Canada, British North America, Cannonsburg, Township of Colchester, January 12th, 1850.

We the undersigned, members of the Wilberforce Lyceum Educating Society, the loyal subjects of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, in order to sustain a moral and enlightened position for ourselves and those that have religious ambition to join us, have as true subjects, established this institution for the promotion of the rising generation in education, scientific attainments and other such progressions in the English language as will promote the furtherance of the true religion of God, politeness, and such other genius in our Society as will entitle us to mix more freely in the great crowd of her Majesty's subjects that is befitting a people who love Belle letters, and such other polite literature as will tend to make us a nation suitable to appear before the sons o men without remark or any other hindrance derogatory to the enlightened character of dutiful subjects,

JOHN MOORE, President,
IRVINE BANKS, Vice President,
PETER BROWN, Treasurer.
JONAH CROSBY, Secretary.
ELI ARTERS, Assistant Secretary.

The money to be lent out on interest by the consent of the majority of the members, signed by the President and counter-signed by the Secretary.

These officers shall be chosen annually 2nd day of March 1850 in future, Sabbath excepted. We the auxilaries in all Towns whose names shall be embooked.

Monthly dues to be closed at the end of every year unless a forfeit. A stated meeting once in three months by order of the President, and if absent the Vice President. The meeting shall be opened by prayer and singing. Heb. 4th Chap. 16th verse.

The constitution shall not be altered only by the consent of two thirds of the members at a special meeting called for that purpose. We do hereby pledge ourselves by truth and justice to reject and announce every thing contrary to virtue among us, by discarding dishonesty of every description, lying, tatling, tale-bearing, and so forth, by the grace of God we pledge ourselves so to stand; as in the maintenance of mutual counsel there is safety, Prov. 11. The answer is, we will do by others as we would that others should do to us. Math. 7th, 12th verse. All that will comply with these rules in virtue, and abide by the same, we will receive such as members. Deut. 30th chap. 14th & 15th verse, keeps the word, Math. 5th & 37.

This Society shall go into operation 2d day of March, 1850. The initiation fees of males 25 cents, and 8⅓ cents per month, female initiation fees one shilling, and six pence per month. The money so collected shall be deposited in the Treasurer's hands.

The officers of the Society; President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.—When the collection amounts to two pounds ten shillings currency, the Treasurer shall give security for its safe keeping. The money shall be for the support of the Society. When able they shall get such books, papers, inks, pens, wafers, wax, &c., as the Society need. There shall be as many committees as the Society shall see cause to appoint. Each Committee shall consist of three, so that they shall be about two miles apart in the Country places; but the Towns only one mile, five in that Committee—the Reporters of the business of the Society. Wherever a member or members has violated the rule of the society, they shall reprove them according to Gods word. 18th Chap. Math. 17 & 18. Shall a second offence take place this Committee shall bring the offender or offenders before the Society, and if impenitent, they shall be expelled from the Society, forfeiting all they have paid; but if otherwise, they are truly penitent and sorry for the offence, then him or her shall be expelled, if impenitent. But

in case of disputes in controversy, there shall be an arbitration called by the President and the other officers, one chosen by the Plaintiff, the other by the Defendant, and these two shall chose the third : their decision shall be final,—that is according to ancient custom. Deut. 25th Chap, 1st to 4th verse, Math. 19 chap. 17th to 21s verse. On funeral occasions they shall be bound to attend at the place of interment, As we have been stiled fugitives, (I wish to say there are none here,) by some pretended abolitionists and theologians by their using the figure, I call them ignoramuses.

We are free men, Loyal subjects the moment we strike our feet on the shores of Canada. This is for the more wise to judge whilst we leave the ignoramuses at home, till we get a better chance to teach them. We render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsars, and unto God the things that are God's—the Heart. Deut. 4th chap. 1st & 2nd verse. Math. 21st chap. & 21st verse.

Great was the beginning of our peace, and the greatest is yet to come. God said to Moses, go up, and my presence shall go with thee, look ahead, Ex. 33, chap. 12 to 14, John 14th chap. 6. We the Ethiopian nation, has foreseen the evil effects of sin, the evil effects of our forefathers, transgression, by which God rejected them, and the curse fell on us, look back to ancient Greece and

look now. Being thus convinced we have accepted of Christ's invitation, the time of repentance is now.—Isai 61st chap., come in. Luke 4th chap. 17th to 22nd verse. As our hands is stretched out to God for held, fear not, help will come. Psal 68, chap. 31. Math. 2 chap. 15, by obedience, truth will cut its way.

ELDER CANNON,
Counsellor.

THE BY-LAWS

Of the Wilberforce Lyceum Educating Society.

We the undersigned, the Loyal subjec.s of Her Majesty, do hereby pledge ourselves, by truth and virtue, to act according to the By-Laws of our institution; to reject, renounce, every thing, contrary to that of virtue among us.

First, by discarding dishonesty, lying, tattling, stealing, tale-bearing, adultery, as by the Grace of God, we pledge ourselves, so to stand. As in a multitude of councillors, there is safety, Prob. II chap. Answer.--Do by others as we would that others should do by us; Matt. 7th Chap., 12th verse. All that will abide by these rules in virtue, we receive such as members.—Luke 30th. Chap. 14 & 18. That will keep their words, Math. 5th, Chap. 37v. This society goes into operation the second day of March, 1850.

2nd. The initiation fee will be 2s. for males, for females 1s. Their monthly fees 8½d. for males of the females six pence, all monies so collected shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer, who for the same, shall give such security, as the society shall demand.—The officers of this society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, three Trustees, who shall be elected annually. There shall be a Marshall, and Assistant Marshall, to keep order in the house. All members shall be in subjection to the chair. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to see to the temporal interests of the society.

3rd. The Secretary's fees shall be 4½d per month.—On their absenting themselves without leave of absence, shall be fined one shilling. It shall be the duty of the Committee to report the misconduct of any member, after reproving them according to scripture. When any member shall violate the rules of the society the second time they shall be brought before the Society. Their case shall be examined, and if they are impenitent, he or she, shall be expelled from the society and forfeit all they have paid. But if truly penitent, they remain on trial till they violate the rules again. Deut. 17—7.—Then he or she shall be expelled accordingly, as that will prove they have not left off their old tricks. Math. 18

Chap. 12. This society shall not dissolve while there is three members willing to stand together. The members shall be punctual to their appointment, and when the society gets £10 in hand, a majority of the male members may put it out to interest, so that the society may buy books and other means of information for the Society.

4th. Rev. N. C. W. Cannon, Counsellor. The individuals that join this society, shall be of good moral character. And as members, we pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of ardent spirits, except in case of sickness. Also that we will not profane the sabbath day, will regard it, as God's holy day, and teach our children to do the same. Also, all members shall be silent, while any member is addressing the house on the subject in hand; each speaker may speak fifteen minutes, no longer, without the consent of the chair.—If any member shall not attend they shall send their monthly dues so that they may close up every quarter. No spitting or chawing tobacco in the time of meeting; after this society is one year old the initiation fee shall be double.

5th. Should the Secretary refuse to give an accurate account of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society he shall forfeit and pay the sum of 5s. His membership also. Should the Treasurer refuse to give an accurate

account of the proceeds in his possession, quarterly to the society, shall forfeit to the Society to the amount of double the amount in his possession. The first Saturday in every month shall be a stated meeting, and at the end of every quarter to collect all of the fees and dues belonging to the society, at the end of each term.

6th. All the auxiliaries shall hold a correspondence with the Secretaries in order to ascertain the increase or decrease of said Society, and should we ever find it necessary to send forth an agent or agents to collect any sum for our sustenance, they shall have their credentials signed by the said officers of said society's. We do this in order to prevent deception, and to show an honorable public that our Laws and views on this matter are based on religion, truth and honor.

7th. And whereas in the third By-Law it is inserted that when the society gets £10, said sum is to be lent out with the consent of a majority of the male members on interest, be it enacted that said £10 or any other sum or sums of money cannot be lent out of the society until first audited in the proper journal of this society, and the amount mentioned in said ledger or journal signed by the President, Secretary, or assistant Secretary, or in their absence the Counsellor or Trustee to said Society.

1850 Wilberforce

As wild beasts and the fowls of the air have their leaders for safety, let this act of wisdom teach us a lesson. to be governed by truth and virtue, as a society we pledge ourselves, that truth and virtue shall be our motto onwards.

This Society is under the protection of the A. M. E. Conference, C. W.

1850. WILBERFORCE